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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D. ZACHARY DATE 2/18/83
EO [illegible] XDS EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS
DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
October 3.1961

DECLASSIFIED

In reply refer to
AV

Dear Mr. Stotter:

Your letter of September 22, 1961, regarding your interest in the investigation of the crash of a Sabena Belgian World Airlines aircraft at Brussels on February 15, 1961, has been referred to this office.

The investigation of this accident is under the complete jurisdiction of the Belgian Government. Accordingly, no hearing or investigation of the accident will be conducted by the United States Government.

For your information, we offered to assist the Belgian authorities in its investigation shortly after the fatal accident but our offer was not accepted. Since that time, however, representatives of the United States Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency have, at the request of the Belgian authorities, reviewed the material which had been developed on the accident by the Belgian Investigation Commission. These United States agencies have informally agreed to conduct tests on various parts of the aircraft's equipment. After receipt of these parts, which are presently being tested by the Belgian authorities, it may be necessary for the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Federal Aviation Agency to conduct a series of flight tests in a Boeing 707 to duplicate conditions of the ill-fated flight based on eye witness accounts. The results of such tests and any statements or reports concerning the accident investigation will be made only by the Belgian authorities.

I hope the above information will prove helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

S/S-CR

OCT 2 1961 PM

Henry T. Snowdon
Chief
Aviation Division

Mr. Lawrence H. Stotter,
Belli, Ashe and Gerry,
722 Montgomery Street,
San Francisco, California.

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